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DRAFTING THE 1954 NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN OF CHINA

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Tientsin, 6 Nov 1953

[Comment: The following report summarizes an editorial of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao entitled, "Draft the 1954 Economic Plan Correctly," which outlines six points of emphasis that must be taken into account by the basic units of the Chinese government in the drafting process.]

Upon instructions from the Central People's Government, various basic government units began to draft their 1954 economic plans in mid-October. A well formulated plan is essential to the smooth progress of the Five-Year Plan as it will serve as a coordinated and systematic guide for the implementation of the general line and the policies of the party and the state during our transition to socialism. In drafting their 1954 economic plans, each unit must bear in mind the following points.

1. To serve as a basis for our major construction projects, we must do three things: (1) we concentrate on industrial and railway construction during 1954; (2) we must complete all the basic construction projects planned for us by the Soviet Union; (3) we must complete all engineering projects in the 1954 plan. However, to satisfy the daily needs of the people, we must also build up the textile industry.
2. To assure the quick development of the nation's industries, we must utilize the potentialities of state, local government, and private industries. This can be accomplished by overcoming production difficulties, improving the quality of output, and reducing production costs. At the same time, we must promote the socialization of industry in private hands and encourage the organization of handicraft cooperatives.
3. To strengthen our national economy, we must expand food and cotton production by promoting the organization of rural cooperatives and mutual aid teams. We must assist the peasants with technical aid, fertilizers, implements, loans, and irrigation projects in order to increase of their farm yield.
4. To assure the success of the 1954 plan, state-operated trading organizations and cooperatives must operate economically and efficiently. They must also guard against market speculators and profiteering merchants in order to protect the nation's economic construction.
5. To supply various construction projects with sorely needed technicians and administrative personnel, educational organizations must train more skilled workmen and improve the standards of present workers on the various construction projects.
6. To provide capital for national economic construction, every effort must be made to properly utilize existing capital resources. The capital fund must also be increased by enforcing strict austerity in the operation of state enterprises to realize a greater profit. Government tax collecting offices must also wipe out tax evasion and increase the capital supply from tax income.

These six points are vital to the completion of the 1954 Economic Plan. In addition to coordinating the leadership of the people for completing the plan, all government offices must promote the plan by the strict implementation of the production and economy drive and positive improvements in the management of various enterprises.

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As the time is drawing near for the submission of the draft plans to higher authorities, party and government cadres must strive with the utmost effort to organize and guide this work. In drafting the plan, the policy of the party and government must be kept in mind and due consideration must be given to the lessons learned from drafting the 1953 plan. Above all, the planners must avoid subjectivism in order to give the nation a well-rounded plan.

Various plans must be submitted in time so that the higher authorities can coordinate them and hand the completed plan to basic level organizations by the early part of 1954. Therefore, the plan must be worked-up with care and without undue delay. In order that the plan may be properly drafted, this assignment must be undertaken by various organizations as a whole and not left to their respective planning departments.

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